

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06

AID-05 IGA-01 DOTE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-02

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7895

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, GB, GW, ELTN

SUBJECT: GABON ACCESS ROADS

REF: A. ABIDJAN 10181; B. LIBREVILLE 0074

C. LIBREVILLE 0153

1. PROPOSAL FOR PROSPECTIVE DONOR MEETING ON GABON ACCESS ROAD PROJECT IS STILL BEING CONSIDERED BY FRG. EHM, THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL AFRICAN AFFAIRS IN AID MINISTRY, HAS INFORMED US THAT HE HOPES TO HAVE A DECISION IN ABOUT 10 DAYS. FRG RELUCTANCE TO MOVE MORE QUICKLY SEEMS TO BE BASED ON UNFAMILIARITY WITH DETAILS OF US AND AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK ROAD-BUILDING PLANS. ATTEMPTS BY EMBOFF TO CLARIFY DETAILS OF THESE PLANS HAVE BEEN HINDERED IN PART BY:

- 1) UNCERTAIN STATUS OF GOG ROAD-BUILDING PLANS, A RESULT OF THE SIMULTANEOUS CONSTRUCTION OF THE FIRST AND SECOND LEGS OF THE TRANS GABON RAILROAD (REF B);
- 2) CHANGES IN THE DONOR ROAD-BUILDING PLANS, SPECIFICALLY THE DILO-LASSIO SEGMENT PER REF C;
- 3) THE INFORMATION (AND PERHAPS MISINFORMATION) COMING FROM THE GERMAN ENGINEERING CONSULTANTS WHO DID THE

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FEASIBILITY WORK FOR THE FRG-FUNDED SEGMENTS; AND

4) LACK OF ADEQUATE MAPS AND DETAILED INFORMATION ON

THE NATURE OF THE ROADS BOTH HERE IN THE EMBASSY
AND IN THE AID MINISTRY. EHM SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED
THAT HE DID NOT KNOW "WHAT KIND OF ROADS" THE US
AND AFDB WERE BUILDING.

2. IN LIGHT OF THE DIFFICULTY WHICH AID MINISTRY
AND EMBASSY BONN ENCOUNTER IN TRYING TO ANALYZE DETAILS
OF THE PROJECT, BEST COURSE MAY BE FOR GOG TO DISCUSS
DONOR COOPERATION WITH FRG EMBASSY IN LIBREVILLE.
WE ASSUME FRG EMBASSY WOULD BE MORE KNOWLEDGEABLE
ABOUT PROJECT DETAILS AND WOULD BE IN A BETTER
POSITION TO JUDGE THE MERITS OF THE PROPOSAL. WE WOULD
BE PLEASED TO PASS ON ANY ADDITIONAL
INFORMATION THAT MIGHT CLARIFY THE SITUATION TO EHM,
BUT WE ARE NOT OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE SUCCESS OF THIS.
EHM APPARENTLY HAS DECIDED TO ATTEMPT TO COLLECT THE
NECESSARY MAPS AND DETAILS FROM FRG SOURCES DURING
THE NEXT TEN DAYS.

3. SINCE EHM HAS AT NO TIME INDICATED AN OBJECTION
IN PRINCIPLE TO JOINT DONOR ACTION, WE EXPECT FRG
WILL EVENTUALLY AGREE TO A MEETING OF DONORS.
HOWEVER, IT IS NOT CLEAR TO US WHY HE IS
WITHHOLDING AGREEMENT FOR A MEETING WHERE DETAILS OF
THE SORT THAT CONCERN HIM COULD MOST LOGICALLY BE
CONSIDERED. HILLENBRAND

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